

REMARKS

New claims 32-46 have been added by this preliminary amendment. Claims 1-46 are currently pending. Support for the limitations of new claims 32-46 can be found in the specification, for example, in the original claims as filed, the detailed description of the preferred embodiments, and in the drawings. Antecedent support for the use of the term "sealing plates" in claims 44-46 can be found at column 11, line 50 of the issued patent.

Examination and timely allowance of the application, as amended, are requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at 612.336.4617 if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.



Date: _____

5/21/03

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David G. Schmaltz".

David G. Schmaltz
Reg. No. 39,828
DGS:KAF:PSTkaw